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EXAMINER YANG, MINGHUI				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/578,253

**Applicant(s)**

FRANSSON ET AL.

**Examiner**

MINGHUI YANG

**Art Unit**

2887

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2009.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI.08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/4/06, 12/1/06  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(a)-(b), to Swedish application 0303058-2 filed in Sweden on November 11, 2003. A certified copy of the foreign priority application has been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 18-23, 25-31, 36-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Skantze et al, US Pg Pub 2005/0200610.

Regarding claim 1, Skantze et al teach a method of allocating pattern units of an overall coding pattern in an information management system (an information processing system assigns position data from a position data bank, see abstract), comprising:

receiving an allotment request for a number of pattern units (a program 22 sends a request including an indication of a number of pages which require position data, see [0033]);

searching an electronic representation of an overall coding pattern to locate the pattern units available for allotting (position assigning software accesses a database 28 to identify available position codes for use, see [0035]);

setting a state indicator of the number of pattern units in the representation to indicate an allotted state (the allocated position codes in database 28 are marked to indicate the code is in use and blocked from further use, see [0035]), and;

outputting an indication of the pattern addresses of the number of pattern units (responding to the request from program 22 by returning assignment data of the allotted position codes, see [0036]).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Skantze et al teach the pattern units are defined in an ordered sequence or divided into ordered groups, and searching comprises locating the number of pattern units in the ordered sequence or within the ordered group (see [0020], claim 36).

Regarding claim 18, Skantze et al teach the searching is effected in a data structure containing at least a part of the electronic representation (database 28 contains a data bank of position codes for allocation, see abstract, [0035]), the data structure comprising a set of records comprising a pattern address field and a state indicator field (see [0034]-[0036]).

Regarding claim 19-22, Skantze et al teach each record represents one allotment request (see [0033]), pattern units that have been allotted to a set of pages of an electronic document (see [0006]), comprises a field that indicates the number of allotted pattern units (see [0020]), or represents one pattern unit (see [0034]).

Regarding claim 23, Skantze et al teach setting the state indicator comprises deleting a record from the data structure (removing the record, see [0082]).

Regarding claim 25, Skantze et al teach deriving a destination indicator from the allotment request and storing the destination indicator in association with the pattern addresses of the number of pattern units (the system associates the code with a unique destination address such as an URL, see [0031]).

Regarding claim 26, Skantze et al teach an arrangement for allotting pattern units pattern units of an overall coding pattern in an information management system (an information processing system assigns position data from a position data bank, see abstract), comprising:

- a storage which contains an electronic representation of the overall coding pattern (a database 28 which contains position codes to be allotted, see [0033]);

- a first interface (a designing computer 12, see [0028]);

- a processing unit (a position assigner 26 having access to database 28, see [0034]) which comprises:

- means for receiving an allotment request for a number of pattern units (a program 22 sends a request including an indication of a number of pages which require position data, see [0033]);

- means for searching an electronic representation of an overall coding pattern to locate the pattern units available for allotting (position assigning software accesses a database 28 to identify available position codes for use, see [0035]);

means for setting a state indicator of the number of pattern units in the representation to indicate an allotted state (the allocated position codes in database 28 are marked to indicate the code is in use and blocked from further use, see [0035]), and;

means for outputting on the first interface an indication of the pattern addresses of the number of pattern units (responding to the request from program 22 run on designing computer 12 by returning assignment data of the allotted position codes, see [0036]).

Regarding claim 27, Skantze et al teach a generation tool which coordinates generation of a product with a coding layer that is based on the number of pattern units and the first interface is adapted for communication with the generation tool (designing computer 12 is used to print a number of copies of position code pages with position code allotted from the position code database 28, see [0033]).

Regarding claim 28, Skantze et al teach a second interface comprising means for receiving a request for state change indicating the pattern address of each pattern unit to be affected (an electronic pen 40 which detects position code, see [0007], [0040]).

Regarding claim 29, Skantze et al teach data is selectively transferred in the system to a plurality of destination units and the second interface is adapted for communication with the destination units (the system may be distributed among a plurality of physical units, see [0031]).

Regarding claim 30, Skantze et al teach the processing unit further comprises means for receiving on the first interface a data identifier which is associated with the

allotment request and means for storing the data identifier in the representation in association with the number of pattern units (the system associates the code with a unique destination address such as an URL, see [0031]).

Regarding claim 31, Skantze et al teach a second interface (an electronic pen 40 which detects position code, see [0007], [0040]), with the processing unit further comprising means for receiving on the second interface a data identifier request indicating a pattern address (see [0040]-[0041]), means for identifying a data identifier in the representation based on the pattern address (the pen sends a query to the database, see [0040]-[0041]), and means for outputting on the second interface the data identifier (the system transmits the assignment, see [0042]-[0044]).

Regarding claim 36, Skantze et al teach the processing unit comprises means for receiving on the first interface a destination indicator and means for storing the destination indicator in association with the pattern addresses of the number of pattern units (the system associates the code with a unique destination address such as an URL, see [0031]).

Regarding claim 37, Skantze et al teach a third interface (another local computer, see [0062]), with the processing unit comprising means for receiving on the third interface a destination indicator request indicating a pattern address (the local computer queries the database, see [0062]), means for identifying a destination in the representation based on the pattern address (see [0064]-[0066]), and means for outputting on the third interface the identified destination indicator (the local computer receives responses from the database, see [0062]-[0066]).

Regarding claim 38, Skantze et al teach a flow controller which directs data associated with a number of pattern units recorded by an electronic pen on the product to one of a plurality of destination units (an electronic pen 40 which detects position code has a router 34 which sends data to addresses. see [0007], [0040]-[0041]).

Regarding claim 39, Skantze et al teach a generation tool which coordinates generation of a product with a coding layer that is based on the number of pattern units and the first interface is adapted for communication with the generation tool (designing computer 12 is used to print a number of copies of position code pages with position code allotted from the position code database 28, see [0033]) and a flow controller which directs data associated with a number of pattern units recorded by an electronic pen on the product to one of a plurality of destination units (an electronic pen 40 which detects position code has a router 34 which sends data to addresses. see [0007], [0040]-[0041]).

Regarding claim 40, Skantze et al teach a method in an information management system which controls the flow of data associated with a position coded product from an electronic pen (an electronic pen 40 which detects position code. see [0007], [0040]) to one of a plurality of destination units, comprising:

allotting at least one pattern unit of an overall coding pattern for the generation of the position coded product (an information processing system assigns position data from a position data bank, see abstract);

selectively setting a state indicator for each allotted pattern unit to indicate one of a plurality of states (position assigning software accesses a database 28 to identify

available position codes for use, see [0035], and allocated position codes in database 28 are marked to indicate the code is in use and blocked from further use, see [0035]), and;

controlling the flow of data in the system based on the state indicator (assignment data based on the marked allotted position codes are returned to a requesting program 22, see [0036]).

Regarding claim 41, Skantze et al teach the state indicator is indicative of an allotted state to signify that any data associated with the allotted pattern is enabled for transmission to a destination unit (available position codes are identified, see [0035], and marked to indicate the code is in use and blocked from further use, see [0035], then assignment data based on the marked allotted position codes are returned to a requesting program 22, see [0036]).

Regarding claim 42, Skantze et al teach the state indicator indicative of an allotted state is associated with a destination indicator indicative of a communication address of a destination unit (the system associates the code with a unique destination address such as an URL, see [0031]).

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103**

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 4-17, 24, 32-35, 43-48** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Skantze et al, in view of Kia et al, US Pg Pub 2003/0094492.

Regarding claims 4-8, 17, Skantze et al teach the method of assigning position codes of claim 1 above, but does not suggest changing the state indicator from the allotted state to a released state.

Kia et al teach a method of coding a page to distinguish the page from other pages (see abstract, [0120]). The coded data identifying the page may be a positioning code that allows an electronic pen to identify a location on the page (see [0255]). The coded data assigned to a certain page may be released based on a predetermined or elapsed time (when the page expires, see [0269]) or based on a request for release which indicates the code is available (when the page is rejected, see [0269]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to improve the method of assigning position codes of Skantze et al by releasing the assigned position codes as taught by Kia et al. The motivation would be to void page assignments when the pages are expired or rejected (see [0269]).

Regarding claims 9-11, Skantze et al in view of Kia et al teach the searching is based on the state indicator to reuse released states (see [0059]) and to assign new pattern units otherwise (see [0076]-[0078]).

Regarding claim 12-16, 46-48, Skantze et al teach the method of assigning position codes of claim 1 above, but does not suggest changing the state indicator from the allotted state to a locked state.

Kia et al teach a method of coding a page to distinguish the page from other pages (see abstract, [0120]). The coded data identifying the page may be a positioning code that allows an electronic pen to identify a location on the page (see [0255]). The coded data assigned to a certain page may be locked and access to the page is blocked or frozen (if the submitted page is approved, see [0269]-[0270]). The locked page may also be unlocked or released by request (using an editing feature, see [0276]) based on an elapsed time (when the page expires, see [0269]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to improve the method of assigning position codes of Skantze et al by locking the assigned position codes as taught by Kia et al. The motivation would be to record and store approved pages (see [0269]-[0270]).

Regarding claim 24, Skantze et al teach the method of assigning position codes of claim 18 above including that the representation comprises an ordering of the pattern units as defined by the pattern addresses and searching for similarly ordered pattern units (see [0020], claim 36), but does not suggest resetting the state indicator to indicate a released state.

Kia et al teach a method of coding a page to distinguish the page from other pages (see abstract, [0120]). The coded data identifying the page may be a positioning code that allows an electronic pen to identify a location on the page (see [0255]). The coded data assigned to a certain page may be released (when the page expires or is rejected, see [0269]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to improve the method of assigning position codes of Skantze et al by releasing the assigned position codes as taught by Kia et al. The motivation would be to void page assignments when the pages are expired or rejected (see [0269]).

Regarding claims 32-34, Skantze et al teach the apparatus for assigning position codes of claim 26 above, but does not suggest resetting the state indicator to indicate a locked state.

Kia et al teach a method of coding a page to distinguish the page from other pages (see abstract, [0120]). The coded data identifying the page may be a positioning code that allows an electronic pen to identify a location on the page (see [0255]). The coded data assigned to a certain page may be locked and access to the page is blocked or frozen (if the submitted page is approved, see [0269]-[0270]). The locked page may also be unlocked (using an editing feature, see [0276]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to improve the method of assigning position codes of Skantze et al by locking the assigned position codes as taught by Kia et al. The motivation would be to record and store approved pages (see [0269]-[0270]).

Regarding claims 35, Skantze et al teach the apparatus for assigning position codes of claim 26 above, but does not suggest resetting the state indicator to indicate a released state.

Kia et al teach a method of coding a page to distinguish the page from other pages (see abstract, [0120]). The coded data identifying the page may be a positioning

code that allows an electronic pen to identify a location on the page (see [0255]). The coded data assigned to a certain page may be released (when the page expires or is rejected, see [0269]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to improve the method of assigning position codes of Skantze et al by releasing the assigned position codes as taught by Kia et al. The motivation would be to void page assignments when the pages are expired or rejected (see [0269]).

Regarding claims 43 and 44, Skantze et al teach the method of assigning position codes of claim 40 above, but does not suggest resetting the state indicator to indicate a released state.

Kia et al teach a method of coding a page to distinguish the page from other pages (see abstract, [0120]). The coded data identifying the page may be a positioning code that allows an electronic pen to identify a location on the page (see [0255]). The coded data assigned to a certain page may be released and made available for further allotting (when the page expires or is rejected, see [0269]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to improve the method of assigning position codes of Skantze et al by releasing the assigned position codes as taught by Kia et al. The motivation would be to void page assignments when the pages are expired or rejected (see [0269]).

Regarding claims 45, Skantze et al teach the method of assigning position codes of claim 40 above, but does not suggest resetting the state indicator to indicate a locked state.

Kia et al teach a method of coding a page to distinguish the page from other pages (see abstract, [0120]). The coded data identifying the page may be a positioning code that allows an electronic pen to identify a location on the page (see [0255]). The coded data assigned to a certain page may be locked (if the submitted page is approved, see [0269]-[0270]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to improve the method of assigning position codes of Skantze et al by locking the assigned position codes as taught by Kia et al. The motivation would be to record and store approved pages (see [0269]-[0270]).

### **Summary**

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MINGHUI YANG whose telephone number is (571)270-3349. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 9 AM-5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve S. Paik can be reached on 571-272-2404. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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